

## Conclusions

The Indiana Passenger Rail Initiative encompasses multiple efforts including feasibility studies that have been and are likely to be conducted, stakeholder awareness and education through projects such as the Rail Communication Plan, and a continuing active collaboration with the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative. INDOT has a planning calendar that includes additional measures that will need to be implemented before any of the recommended routes are developed. The most significant of which is preliminary environmental and engineering design work, which will be necessary in order to develop cost estimates. In spite of the expansive \$4 billion plus price tag for the entire Midwest Regional Rail System, people believe this project deserves funding when compared to the billions that are invested in highways and airports annually. The audiences expressed their support for identifying means to ensure the state legislature and federal elected officials are convinced that the investment is necessary. The audiences voiced their support and their belief that High Speed Rail would create a new transportation system for Indiana Citizens. Even though the cost for the Midwest system will be in the billions of dollars, with federal funds and other states sharing costs for infrastructure, Indiana's costs could be less than \$200 million.

The support this project has from people attending the seven (7) statewide meetings is unquestionable. People commented that they want choices and the opportunity to choose passenger rail options as long as they will be high speed, safe, connected to other mass transit/bus transit services, convenient, affordable and reliable. Citizens from through out the state have signed petitions, supported resolutions, and written their legislators.

What is next? Here is the list according to INDOT officials:

- Continued support for Federal funding through passage of the High Speed Rail Investment Act.
- Increase level of discussion and coordination with freight railroads.
- Finish study evaluating northern Indiana routing question
- Move forward with preliminary environmental analysis, including opportunities for additional public input through public hearings
- Crossing issues will be systematically addressed along all corridors.
- State funding questions to be addressed, including source of state funds and cost sharing issues with adjacent states.



**Figure 3: Potential  
Indiana HSR routes**

The citizens, business leaders, elected local officials, grandparents, and students of all walks of life repeatedly said, “...it is the right thing to do, move forward.” There is no question that there are a number of challenges and issues that need to be addressed, but one thing is for sure, and that is that through INDOT’s Rail Communication Plan project there is documented evidence that people have spoken, or at least close to 1,200 have, and they are interested in progress, modal choices, and action sooner than later.

